State/UTs will use the existing mechanisms of PDS.

9. Having regard to the fiscal deficit of the Union Government as well as those of the States/UT, concerted efforts will be made by both the Central Government and the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations to augment revenues, realise user charges fully and curb unproductive expenditures.

10. The items included by the Central and State Governments under PDS will be reviewed from time to time.

11. States/UTs will take immediate action to remove restrictions including informal restrictions, if any, on the movement of essential commodities so that free flow of essential commodities is ensured.

Finally, I may mention that an overwhelming majority of Chief Ministers have favoured a comprehensive ban on all kinds of lotteries. The Chief Ministers from the North Eastern States have expressed concern about the adverse impact that the ban would have on their revenues. Government of India will consider these reservations and see how these States can be compensated for the loss in their revenues. But the general consensus of the Conference was that lotteries should be statutorily banned and necessary Legislations in this regard will be initiated.

On the question of amending the law relating to provision of capital punishment for the offence of rape, while some Chief Ministers have endorsed the proposal wholeheartedly, some others have said that they would like to consult their respective Cabinet colleagues. There has, however, been unanimity that rape is a heinous crime which deserves stringent punishment.

The other suggestions of the Hon'ble Chief Ministers have also been noted end action will be taken on each of them expeditiously.

I once again thank the Hon'ble Chief Ministers and other representatives of the State Governments for attending the Conference and shering their views with us. I need hardly emphasise that cooperation between Central Government and the State Governments/ UT Administrations is essential in dealing with a matter as sensitive as prices. I will have similar inter-actions with you in future to take further corrective actions that may be required in this regard.

बृहत् उर्वरक परियोजनाओं का निर्धारित समय-सीमा से पीछे चलना

*290. **श्री चीमनभाई हरीभाई शुक्ला:** क्या रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या देश में सरकारी और निजी उपक्रमों की पचास प्रतिशत बृहत् उर्वरक परियोजनाओं के निर्माण का कार्य निर्धारित समय-सीमा से पीछे चल रहा है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इन परियोजनाओं के नाम क्या हैं;

(ग) क्या उनकी लागत में पैंतीस प्रतिशत से भी अधिक की वृद्धि हो गई है;

(घ) यदि हां, तो प्रत्येक मामले में लागत वृद्धि का ब्यौरा क्या है तथा उसके क्या कारण हैं; और

(ङ) क्या सरकार इन परियोजनाओं को निर्धारित समय-सीमा में पूरा करने हेतु कोई कदम उठाने का विचार रखती है?

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री (श्री सुरजीत सिंह बरनाला): (क) से (ङ) निजी क्षेत्र में स्थापित की जा रही उर्वरक परियोजनाओं में लगने वाले अधिक समय तथा लागत पर सरकार द्वारा निगरानी रखे जाने/विश्लेषण किये जाने की आवश्यकता नहीं है क्योंकि ऐसी परियोजनाओं की लागत तथा कार्यान्वयन समय सारणी सरकार द्वारा अनुमोदित नहीं की जाती है।

सार्वजनिक / सहकारी क्षेत्र में 212.20 करोड़ रुपये की अनुमानित लागत से प्रतिवर्ष 3.70 लाख टन एनपीके तथा 2.27 लाख टन डीएपी की अतिरिक्त क्षमता सृजित करने के लिए इंडियन फारमर्स फर्टिलाइजर कोआपरेटिव लि॰ की काण्डला विस्तार परियोजना एकमात्र प्रमुख उर्वरक परियोजना है जो कार्यान्वयनाधीन है। इस परियोजना की अनुमोदित लागत के भीतर और निर्धारित समय-सारणी के अनुसार 22.10.1999 तक शुरू होने की आशा है।

Dues of Sugarcane Growers

*291. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total amount due to sugarcane growers, State-wise;

(b) what are the reasons for the same; and

(c) what steps Government are taking to ensure that the farmers are paid their dues on time?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (b) The latest available statewise position of cane price arrears for the season 1997-98 as on 15.10.1998 prepared on the basis of the information furnished by sugar mills, is at statement. (*see* below)

Percentage of arrears of price payable during the last 3 sugar seasons as given below would reveal that the cane price arrears for the season 1997-98 were the lowest as compared to the previous 2 seasons on the same date.

(Rs. In crores)

Season	Position as on	Total price payable	Total price paid	Arrears	% of Arrears on Price payable
1997-98	15.10.98	7954.69	7740.88	213.81	2.7
1996-97	15.10.97	7661.48	7364.86	296.61	3.9
1995-96	15.10.96	10227.60	9620.52	607.09	5.9

(c) The responsibility for ensuring timely payment of cane price dues lies with the State Governments who have necessary powers and field organisations to enforce such payments. Central Government has been pursuing a policy of encouraging stability and reasonable level of sugar prices in the domestic market through judicious release of freesale quota and helping deserving specific cases with higher freesale sugar quota as measures to enable clearance of cane price dues of the farmers.